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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/508,784

11/19/2004

Ayaaki Ishizaki

2004-1526A

8456

513 7590 03/22/2007
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EXAMINER

WARE, DEBORAH K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1651

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/508,784

Applicant(s)

ISHIZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Deborah K. Ware

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1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/28/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7,8 and 10-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7,8 and 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 2007/01/09
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 5, 7-8 and 10-14 are presented for reconsideration on the merits.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed December 28, 2006, has been received and entered.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5, 7-8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 58-98085 in view of JP 7-177876, both previously cited of record.

Claims are drawn to a method for continuous culture of anaerobic microorganisms while controlling glucose concentration of the culture by feeding the culture at a rate equal to consumption rate.

JP 58-98085 teaches a method for continuous culture of microorganisms wherein it is to feed the culture at a rate equal to consumption rate is discussed and recognized, see page 2, (1), all lines. Also note page 3, second full paragraph, all lines. Alkaline conditions and pH regulation is discussed also.

JP 7-177876 teaches a predetermined lower limit and upper limit of pH and using it to determine glucose quantity to be supplied, based on the predetermined pH limits and pressure. Note pages 15-16, lines 1-16 and lines 1-10, respectively.

The claims differ from the cited disclosure in that anaerobic microorganisms and predetermined pH at a lower and upper limits are not clearly discussed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to carry out the claimed method under alternate alkaline conditions by regulating pH at predetermined upper and lower limits and controlling substrate supply rate based on the amount of feed intake under aerobic and anaerobic conditions because both of the JP documents suggest that such conditions may be employed under aerobic and anaerobic conditions. One of skill would have been motivated to modify the JP document to provide for a continuous culture methodology while controlling pH at predetermined upper and lower limits for anaerobic microorganisms. The pH conditions and addition of supplements for aiding control of parameters is clearly within the skill of an ordinary artisan. Continuous culture of

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microorganisms is well known in the art and the claimed subject matter is deemed prima facie obvious over the cited prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 28, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The argument that the newly presented claims are not disclosed or suggested by the cited prior art is noted. However, the claims are at least suggested by the cited prior art combination and the scope of the claims are not so limited to anaerobic culture because it is only recited in the preamble of the claims. The determination of whether a preamble limits a claim is made on a case-by-case basis in light of the facts in each case; there is no litmus test defining when a preamble limits the scope of a claim. *Catalina Mktg. Int'l v. Coolsavings.com, Inc.*, 289 F.3d 801, 808, 62 USPQ2d 1781, 1785 (Fed. Cir. 2002). In the instant case the body of the claimed culture management methods are not so limited to anaerobic conditions and hence whether or not these conditions are critical to the claimed culture management methods remains in question since these method steps would be expected to be capable of managing a culture method successfully under aerobic or anaerobic conditions, as discussed of record. Further, Applicants do not point to the criticality of these conditions in their arguments nor are they set forth as a positive recitation and method step in the claimed methods.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

All claims fail to be patentably distinguishable over the state of the art discussed above. Therefore, the claims are properly rejected.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah K. Ware whose telephone number is 571-272-0924. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Deborah K. Ware
March 17, 2007



DAVID M. NAFF
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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